Technology Toolbox Critique 

**CRITIQUE SCALE**

**(Caution! The author of this critique is new to these web tools and their usages so judgments may be debatable).**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ease of use** | **1= very difficult** | **2=difficult** | **3= patience** | **4=fairly easy** | **5=very easy to learn** |
| **Cost** | **1=have your employer buy it. [http://tbn2.google.com/images?q=tbn:OvcSqAjzzX3s0M:http://www.grudge-match.com/Images/taz.gif](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.grudge-match.com/Images/taz.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.grudge-match.com/History/taz-bunyan.shtml&usg=__L7r1CMjwGyE_5aLRKgcljd2zgpQ=&h=307&w=248&sz=19&hl=en&start=80&sig2=bW-1dCrK6IucJCCMkLY04g&tbnid=OvcSqAjzzX3s0M:&tbnh=117&tbnw=95&prev=/images?q=tasmanian+devil&gbv=2&ndsp=18&hl=en&sa=N&start=72&ei=5vNjSsubIZL8sgOYsbFn)** | **2=Will the cost justify the means?** | **3=worth considering** | **4=acceptable** | **5=FREE** |
| **Instructional Value** | **1=0 instructional use.** | **2=could be of value but is there something better?** | **3=worth considering** | **4=worthy of consideration** | **5=an excellent web tool** |
| **Tweek-ability**  **Ability to customize** | **1=none**  **[http://tbn2.google.com/images?q=tbn:I3kiLsw-zh4CdM:http://cosmokitty.files.wordpress.com/2008/04/taz.png](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://cosmokitty.files.wordpress.com/2008/04/taz.png&imgrefurl=http://cosmokitty.wordpress.com/category/bad-puddy/page/2/&usg=__YEuG_za808OASQLtsQtt266wabk=&h=259&w=259&sz=116&hl=en&start=36&sig2=4PQ6pvZbSlha24FWiA6dpQ&tbnid=I3kiLsw-zh4CdM:&tbnh=112&tbnw=112&prev=/images?q=tasmanian+devil&gbv=2&ndsp=18&hl=en&sa=N&start=18&ei=ZfNjSovsJaHQswPap6ln)** | **2=some** | **3**  **manageable** | **4=lots of creative room** | **5=full creative process** |
| **Security &**  **Safety** | **1=don’t go there** | **2=if you like risks** | **3**  **questionable** | **4=stable** | **5=safe and secure** |

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| Type &  Name | Ease of Use | Cost | Instructional Value | Tweek-ability  (Ease in Customizing) | Safety and Security |
| Aggregators |  |  |  |  |  |
| Google Reader | **4**  **Fairly easy to use** | **5=free** | **5**  **Good tool personally and one to share with students.** | **4**  **Customization and organizational choices** | **5**  **trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Social Bookmarking |  |  |  |  |  |
| Backflip | **4**  **Fairly easy to use** | **5=free** | **4**  **Possibly a good tool for groups in gathering categories & sites for their projects.** | **4**  **Customization and organizational choices** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Search Tools |  |  |  |  |  |
| Squidoo | **-4**  **Fairly easy to use but so busy it was a bit annoying.** | **5=free** | **? Lots of ads….**  **This seems more like the above two categories.**  **I got a bit confused at first of its purpose.** | **4**  **Customization and organizational choices acceptable.** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Webstart |  |  |  |  |  |
| Protopage | **4**  **Although easy to use it will require some time to learn.** | **5=free** | **5**  **I think this has lots of potential for instructional capabilities for a variety of uses.** | **5+**  **Customization and organizational choices are very good.** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Weblogs |  |  |  |  |  |
| Edublogs | **4**  **Although easy to use it will require some time to learn.** | **5=Free** | **5**  **I think this has lots of room for instructional capabilities once you work with it a few times.** | **4**  **Customization and organizational choices are good.** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Wiki’s |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wikispaces | **4**  **The tutorial was helpful.**  **It took a little patience but was easy to use after spending some time.** | **5=Free** | **5**  **Has good instruction value for class to learn, share, observe and comment.** | **4**  **Some things are limited but overall provides the necessary tools.** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Web-based Word Processing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Google Docs  & Spreadsheets | **4+**  **I thought this site fairly clean and easy to work with. Tutorials were helpful.** | **5=Free** | **5**  **Has good instruction value capabilites** | **4**  **After watching the tutorial it Google is equipped with the right tools to customize.** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Creative Writing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Glypho | **4**  **Seems easy to use but has no history, help, or about tab.** | **5=Free** | **5**  **This would be a good instructional tool for writers, literature or using within a class. A neat idea for group collaboration and voting.** | **1-5**  **Is it possible to use this just for a class instead of the web?**  **Creativity lies in the writer.** | **5**  **Seems safe but couldn’t tell for sure except by the agreement terms.** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type &  Name | Usability | Cost | Instructional Value | Tweek-ability  (Ease in Customizing) | Safety and Security |
| Web-based Spreadsheets |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zoho sheet | **?**  **Personally, why would I want to learn a new menu bar? It seemed too similar.** | **5=Free** | **No comment** | **No comment** | **No comment** |
| Assessment, Surveys, Polls |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rubistar | **4+**  **I thought this was a easy to use and a helpful site to share a large area of topics.** | **5=Free** | **5**  **Instructional value to the teacher but the right type of assessments could also benefit the student.** | **4**  **Customization and organizational choices are good.** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Podcasting & Screencasting |  |  |  |  |  |
| Audacity | **3 ?**  **This could be a bit too involved for me so a three is the best I can do.** | **5=Free** | **4**  **Excellent value for teachers and students to make their own presentation or tutorials.** | **5**  **As *Audacity*  says……**  **“Free as in freedom of speech.”** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Video |  |  |  |  |  |
| You Tube | **4**  **Fairly easy to use and click into.** | **5=Free** | **5**  **Excellent resource for teachers and students both in topics, research, and creation .** | **4**  **Customization comes in variety of choices and the creative process.** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Photo and Drawing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Google SketchUp | **4+**  **Excellent tutorials that are clear and precise. These should help in the ease of using this tool** | **5=Free** | **5**  **Excellent resource for teachers and students both in art, sciences, etc.** | **5**  **Lots of room for the creative process** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| File Sharing |  |  |  |  |  |
| Allmydata | **3**  **Depends on you needs** | **5=Free** | **3**  **Personal use or a computer literacy class.** | **3?**  **Manage your data storage** | **5+**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure**  **Interesting claims** |
| Webquests & Games |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nobelprize.org  Educational games | **5**  **Easy to use games and a wide variety of educational topics ranging from literature to blood-typing.** | **5=Free** | **5**  **Test your knowledge….**  **Valuable resource for personal, student and teacher. Lots of selection of simple yet unique games in a variety of educational topics.** | **4**  **I gave this rating due to the amount of selection to choose from.** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |
| Presentation Tools |  |  |  |  |  |
| SlideShare | **4**  **Tutorial presents the different avenues this tool can be used for.** | **5=Free** | **4**  **Personally, this seems to be for personal or the instructor but as with many web tools …..It depends on the instructor’s determination in how it might be beneficial for the student’s learning such as in the arts, business, marketing etc..** | **5**  **Your create your own slides entirely.** | **5**  **Trustworthy**  **safe and secure** |